

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

From the N. Y. Sun.

Probably a dozen or more attempts have been made in England within the last half century to legalize marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and invariably with the same result. The measure usually prevails in the House of Commons, but in the House of Lords, where the influence of the Bench of Bishops is exerted against it, and the conservative element is in the ascendancy, it is decisively defeated.

In the United States, where a distinction has been made between marriages of kindred and those of mere affinity, such language seems extravagant, if not absolutely ludicrous. No law here prevents a man from marrying his deceased wife's sister, and such marriages do in fact take place, though by no means frequently.

JENKINS AGAIN!

From the N. Y. Tribune.

We are enabled to hasten to report the following important intelligence, exclusively for the Tribune.—The special Jenkins of a New York newspaper has been honored by an interview with the ex-Empire at Wilhelmshöhe. The gifted Jenkins was at Berlin when an intimation was given him, from some source which is left in painful uncertainty, that Napoleon could not think of leaving Germany without a few moments instructive conversation with the representative of the greatest journal in the world.

Here the conversation lapsed into English, and became somewhat vague. The Emperor seems to have expressed the opinion that France would be all right if she could only have another plebiscite, and that the people as a general rule did not know what was good for them; while Mr. Jenkins, with a cheerful irony which he hardly thought him capable, inquired whether his Majesty intended to retire into private life? To this question he got a rather indefinite answer, and we are not surprised to learn, a few lines below, that

"the Emperor exhibited less equanimity of temper" than on the occasion of his last previous interview with Mr. Jenkins. If Mr. Jenkins keeps on, the Emperor will exhibit less and less equanimity every time. The truth is it began to dawn upon the young man's mind that Napoleon was on the point of boiling over, and the sooner he got out of the way the better. But we must tell the rest in his own words, which are too precious to be tampered with:—"Having had some forebodings, without indeed knowing why, that he was not in a very cheerful mood, I commenced and carried on the conversation in French, instead of English or German, expecting thereby to facilitate matters. It may have had the opposite effect. [Yes, indeed, poor man!] The Emperor's features remained rather rigid, and I could perceive no change as I made my obeisance and retired."

On the very same day the very same Jenkins was at Rome, interviewing Cardinal Antonelli! It is a curious fact—or rather it is not at all curious, but, on the contrary, perfectly natural—that the Cardinal, like the Emperor, also exhibited less equanimity than he had shown under a former visitation of Jenkins, the fate of this estimable gentleman being to make a perpetual round of visits and get a colder and colder welcome every time he calls. His Eminence "did not rise," says Jenkins, "with the elastic courtesy displayed when I saw him last." Neither was his conversation especially cordial. "His tone was different—he was neither patronizing nor inquisitive, only appearing indifferent." He "put on a smile for the occasion."

Mr. Jenkins was pleased to observe that "notwithstanding the attacks of the penny press," the Cardinal continued to show "the marks of intellect;" but there was a change in his physical appearance. "Not a year has elapsed, yet he offers much more of reduction or contraction, so to speak, in personal appearance, than that period of age should naturally have produced in him." A cardinal, indeed, whose frame begins to contract at the early age of one year, when he ought to be getting his growth, must be a melancholy spectacle. Possibly on account of this morbid physical condition, his eminence did not say anything, so far as we have been able to discover, during the entire interview. The brightest and the tenderest of emotions of sympathy, and the most solemn utterances of philosophy from the general and accomplished Jenkins failed to rouse the infant minister, until our ash countryman touched upon the question of the guarantees. This remark must have been inspired by the same exquisite tact which led Jenkins on a previous celebrated occasion to ask Mrs. Lawlor what she thought of Montalad. If we may be pardoned the expression, Jenkins got Antonelli on the raw. "The sore point of his eminence being hit upon, the one which most affects him in his present debilitated and dilapidated condition, he at once assumed a keen, bitter tone of voice, and with a mocking look said:—What he said we shall not repeat. Something happened just about that time. Mr. Jenkins came away in a damaged and obfuscated condition. The subsequent proceedings interested him no more, and he is unable to give any intelligent account of them. We believe he was kicked out. "I retired from the interview," he says, "with the impression that I had received a copy of the second edition of the work known under the title of 'Non Possumus,' by his Holiness Pope Pius IX." But if he got it, who gave it to him, and what he did with it, and what was in it, he knows no more than we do.

PLAYING AT SOLDIERS.

From the N. Y. Times.

The publication of the "accounts" of the Fenian Brothers who occupied the Moffatt Mansion in Union Square, in 1866, induces one to ask once more, how it is that the patriotism of the Irish in the United States can so completely overwhelm their sense of humor, and their general strong aversion to being cheated. The opening of the Moffatt Mansion was a kind of formal experiment on Irish credulity, and the accounts show that it was carried out with ludicrous pomp and circumstance. In the first place, the establishment of a belligerent "Government" on foreign soil, was in itself a huge joke, but this was suggested, and its real nature disguised, by the operations of the Southerners in Liverpool. The Rebels really had their Navy Department in that city, which fitted out expeditions against the enemy, with as much assurance and success as if they were working on its own territory; but then, it had territory of its own elsewhere, and a regularly organized government to back up its pretensions, and give it force and substance. It was characteristic of the Fenians to perceive only that the Confederacy had its seat on foreign soil, and dispatched military expeditions from a neutral port, and not to perceive at all the importance of having somewhere a political organization to furnish it with authority and standing in the forum of international law. The institutions which were set up in the Moffatt Mansion were, on the contrary, the barest fabric of a vision. The "Head Centre," who presided over it, had no Circle. The "Secretary of Civil Affairs" had no "civil affairs" to attend to. The "military affairs" were all civil and "peaceable" as possible. The "bonds, of which the numerous "bond clerks" took charge, bound nobody; and "the Chief of Artillery" had no guns. The whole thing was, in short, a little comedy which "drew" about \$150,000, and this sum the principal performers divided among themselves.

Nevertheless the general dissatisfaction caused among the Fenian public by the performance did not prevent its reproduction under a new name in 1869, but with the "invasion" left out. Money came in, and "war" was declared as before, to the huge delight of thousands of Irishmen, whose faith and hope seem to be absolutely boundless. The failure last summer in Canada was enough to damp the enthusiasm of any other nation. Even Parisians would have succumbed under it, but Irishmen hardly ever ask for anything but a change of leaders, for they firmly hold the French theory that when they are defeated it is through "treason."

Stephens, another renowned "exile," broke up the "Moffatt Mansion" establishment, and turned the Centre and the bond clerks and chiefs of civil and military affairs out on a cold and unfeeling world. If this happens again, we doubt very much whether the "exiles" will meet with as hospitable a reception on this side of the water as they have hitherto received.

In connection with these convulsions here, Lord Derby's recent observation in the House of Lords on the Irish trouble is worth notice. He says, that a great many Englishmen of the same standing are beginning to say, that, after all Irish grievances are redressed, there will still remain the very formidable obstacle to tranquil union with England, in the shape of Irish dislike of English rule—simple unadulterated dislike, without rhyme, or reason, or foundation. The Established Church is gone, and the Land laws have been amended, and the Catholic clergy do pretty much as they please, and yet there is terrible discontent—and what is worse, the Protestants are said to be no longer as devoted to England as they once were—the "idea of legislative independence which sprang up," Lord Derby said, "in 1782, and having died out, while it derives additional force now from the concessions which Government has felt called upon to make on certain questions of reform. What gave the repeal agitation under O'Connell its deathblow was the general belief that its success was hopeless. But since agitation has resulted in bringing about such tremendous changes as the disestablishment of the Church, and the concession of more "tenant rights" than its advocates even ten years ago dreamed of ever asking for, people have not gradually begun to inquire whether the old scheme of legislative independence is, after all, impracticable, and some of the baser sort are not unnaturally asking themselves also whether the species of agitation—that is, the shooting, cutting, and blowing up, which seem to them to have brought about the abolition of the Church and the new Land law—may not be made to effect the repeal of the Legislative Union also.

We think it may be safely said that there is only one argument against the repeal of the Union which has any weight with anybody besides Englishmen, and that is a very strong one. It is the awful badness of the Government which Irishmen set up when they get a chance to set one up. The Moffatt Mansion Government was, to be sure, a farce; but then it, like the whole Fenian organization, does not afford the slightest evidence that the men who got it up and carried it on were capable of serious work—which a really well-acted farce might have done. And then, we are sorry to say, that in our times the cause of Irish independence has a foe of which Gratton, Flood, Emmet and Wolfe Tone never dreamed of, namely, the municipal government of New York. Had it existed, and as we now see it, in the last center, Gratton, Flood, Emmet and Wolfe Tone never dreamed of, namely, the municipal government of New York. Had it existed, and as we now see it, in the last center, Gratton, Flood, Emmet and Wolfe Tone never dreamed of, namely, the municipal government of New York.

In the course of the late war the French often called their enemy by the names of Goths and barbarians, and bystanders have been so far moved as from time to time to agree with them. But it was reserved for a famous Professor of Berlin to fix this title upon his countrymen as a compliment, and by way of strict historical parallel made in cold blood. At the conclusion of a lecture on the Roman Empire, held on the 13th of January last, the historian Theodor Mommsen described the siege of Rome by the Gothic invaders, turning it, in the following manner, into a figure of another siege:—"The Roman knows nothing of what is outside his city walls, and despises it; for stranger, under the disguise of a messenger, has at bystanders' hands been so far moved as from time to time to agree with them. But it was reserved for a famous Professor of Berlin to fix this title upon his countrymen as a compliment, and by way of strict historical parallel made in cold blood. 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